

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. Claims 6-18 were withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to delete the objected phrase "90% by weight of said zeolite particles are of a particle diameter below the range of from about 0.30 to about 3 microns". The claims are now believed to comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and the Examiner is requested to remove this rejection.

Claims 1-5 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as containing subject matter not in the specification. The phrase "90% by weight of said zeolite particles are of a particle diameter below the range of from about 0.30 to about 3 microns" can be found in the specification on page 10, lines 4-5. Since this phrase has been deleted from claim 1 by this amendment, this rejection is moot and the Examiner is requested to remove this rejection.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Detterman ('277) as evidenced by Gray ('376) and optionally Eshuis ('588). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims and reconsideration is requested.

The reference Detterman ('277) does not teach the particle size of the zeolite co-stabilizer. Applicants found that to obtain smooth extrusions and good impact a particle size for the zeolite, as recited in claim 1, is needed to be used. The reference Gray ('376) is directed to making bleaching or detergent compositions to remove stains from fabrics. Gray, in Example 11, teaches using a 4A zeolite with 20% water content in his bleaching composition. The combined teaching of Detterman and Gray does not teach a CPVC composition having the small particle size zeolite as recited in claim 1. The reference Eshuis ('588) is directed to polymerizing glycerol in the presence of an acid zeolite to obtain high levels of cyclic polymers. The references Gray and Eshuis do not relate to CPVC compositions nor thermoplastic polymers of any type and thus would not be considered for their teaching by one skilled in the art of CPVC compositions. The amended claims are unobvious over the combined references of Detterman and Gray or optionally Eshuis.

In summary, the references taken alone or combined do not teach the use of a zeolite with a particle size as recited in the claims for use in a CPVC composition to achieve smooth

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extrusion and impact resistance. The claims are believed to be unobvious and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and allow the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 7, 2007

201TR032Amd2 doc